Amendments to the Specification

On page 1, delete the first paragraph and replace it with the following:

This application is a continuation of application No. 09/740,039 filed December 20, 2000, now abandoned, which claims the benefit of Provisional application 60/171,667 filed December 27, 1999, both of which are relied on and incorporated herein by reference.

On page 1, please amend the paragraph on line 8 and replace it with the following paragraph:

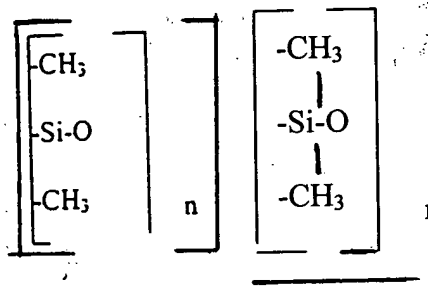
It is known to compact hydrophilic, pyrogenically produced silica (~~EP 0 280 854 B1~~ EP 0 280 851 B1).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 4, page 2, as follows:

The hydrophobic, pyrogenically produced silica used for purposes of the present invention can be, for example, the silicas known as:

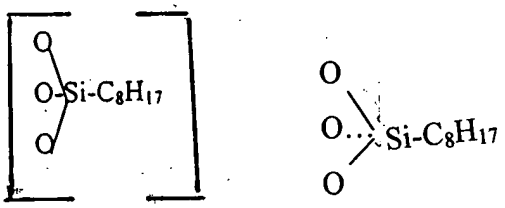
Aerosil R 812 or Aerosil R 8128, having the group -0-Si $(CH_3)_3$

Aerosil R 202, Aerosil MS 202, Aerosil MS 202, Aerosil R 106



or Aerosil R 104 having the group

Aerosil R 805 having the group



Please replace page 4 of the specification with the attached new page 4.

On page 8 of the specification, please amend the paragraph on lines 6-8, as follows:

It may be seen from the ~~graph of~~ effectiveness values that, while the highly compacted AEROSIL R 812 sample may indeed still be broken up with the Ultra-~~Turrax~~ Turax® mixer(0965), it can no longer be broken up with the high speed mixer (0955). Due to the smaller surface area of AEROSIL R 202 (and to the consequently theoretically improved dispersibility), this phenomenon hardly occurs with AEROSIL R 202. The parenthetical values (0965) and (0955) are the PA numbers in the tables on pages 5 and 6.